

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION**

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PETITION FOR WARRANT FOR OFFENDER UNDER SUPERVISION

Pending is a "Petition for Warrant or Summons for Offender Under Supervision" filed January 4, 2013, alleging that the Defendant, Donald Barnes, violated his conditions of supervised release. This matter is referred to the undersigned United States magistrate judge for review, hearing, and submission of a report with recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law. See United States v. Rodriguez, 23 F.3d 919, 920 n.1 (5th Cir. 1994); see also 18 U.S.C. § 3401(I) (2000); Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges.

I. The Original Conviction and Sentence

The Defendant was sentenced on January 24, 2005, before the Honorable Thad Heartfield, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, after pleading guilty to the offense of possession with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of cocaine base within 1,000 feet of a school, a Class B felony. The offense carried a statutory maximum imprisonment term of 80 years. The guideline imprisonment range, based on a total offense level of 25 and a criminal history category of VI, was 110 to 137 months. The Defendant was sentenced to 110 months' imprisonment, followed by 8 years of supervised release subject to the standard conditions of release, plus special conditions to include: financial disclosure, drug aftercare, and a \$100 special assessment.

II. The Period of Supervision

On October 29, 2008, his sentence of 110 months was reduced to 92 months' imprisonment. The Defendant completed his period of imprisonment on November 19, 2009, and began his term of supervised release.

III. The Petition

United States Probation filed the Petition for Warrant for Offender Under Supervision on January 4, 2012 alleging six violations of the following conditions of release: (1.) The Defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime; (2.) The Defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance; (3.) The Defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any narcotic or other controlled substance, or any paraphernalia related to such substances, except as prescribed by a physician; (4.) The Defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered; (5.) The Defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer; and (6.) The Defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance.

IV. Proceedings

On January 15, 2013, the undersigned convened a hearing pursuant to Rule 32.1 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to hear evidence and arguments on whether the Defendant violated conditions of supervised release, and the appropriate course of action for any such violations.

At the revocation hearing, counsel for the government and the Defendant announced an agreement as to a recommended disposition. The Defendant agreed to plead “true” to the last allegation, which asserted that he violated a mandatory condition of supervised release, to wit: “On December 5, 2012, Mr. Barnes reported to the U.S. Probation Office and submitted a urine specimen which tested positive for cocaine. He signed an admission.”

The undersigned recommends that the Court revoke the Defendant’s supervised release and impose a sentence of eight (8) months’ imprisonment, with no supervised release to be imposed after release.

V. Principles of Analysis

If the Court, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure applicable to revocation of probation or supervised release, finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the Defendant violated a condition of supervised release, it may revoke a term of supervised release and require the Defendant to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in such term of supervised release without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3). The original offense of conviction was a Class B felony; therefore, the maximum imprisonment sentence is 3 years.

According to U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(a), if the Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the Defendant violated a condition of supervision by submitting a urine specimen which tested positive for cocaine, he will be guilty of committing a Grade C violation. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(a)(2) indicates upon a finding of a Grade C violation, the Court may (A) revoke probation or supervised release; or (B) extend the term of probation or supervised release and/or modify the conditions of

supervision. In the case of a revocation of supervised release based on a Grade C violation and a criminal history category of VI, the guideline imprisonment range is 8 to 14 months.

According to U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(c)(2), where the minimum term of imprisonment is more than six months but not more than ten months, the minimum term may be satisfied by: (A) a sentence of imprisonment; or (B) a sentence of imprisonment that includes a term of supervised release with a condition that substitutes community confinement or home detention according to the schedule in U.S.S.G. § 5C1.1(e), provided that at least one-half of the minimum term is satisfied by imprisonment.

According to U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(f) any term of imprisonment imposed upon revocation of probation or supervised release shall be ordered to be served consecutively to any sentence of imprisonment that the Defendant is serving, whether or not the sentence of imprisonment being served resulted from the conduct that is the basis of the revocation of probation or supervised release.

U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(b) indicates where there is more than one violation of the conditions of supervision, or the violation includes conduct that constitutes more than one offense, the grade of the violation is determined by the violation having the most serious grade.

In determining the Defendant's sentence, the court shall consider:

1. The nature and circumstance of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; see 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1);
2. The need for the sentence imposed to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct; to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; and to provide the Defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, other corrective treatment in the most effective manner; see 18 U.S.C. §§ 3553 (a)(2)(B)-(D);
3. Applicable guidelines and policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission, for the appropriate application of the provisions when modifying or revoking

- supervised release pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 994(a)(3), that are in effect on the date the defendant is sentenced; see 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(4); see also 28 U.S.C. § 924(A)(3);
4. Any pertinent policy statement issued by the Sentencing Commission, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 994(a)(2), that is in effect on the date the defendant is sentenced; see 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(5); and
 5. The need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; see 18 U.S.C. § 3553(A)(6).

18 U.S.C. §§ 3583(e) and 3553(a).

VI. Application

The Defendant pled “true” to the allegation that he violated his conditions of supervised release by failing refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. Based upon the Defendant’s plea of “true” to this allegation of the Petition for Warrant or Summons for Offender Under Supervision and U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(a), the undersigned finds that the Defendant violated a condition of supervised release.

The undersigned has carefully considered each of the five factors listed in 18 U.S.C. §§ 3583(e) and 3553(a). The Defendant’s violation is a Grade C violation, and his criminal history category is VI. Policy guidelines suggest 8 to 14 months’ imprisonment. The Defendant did not comply with the conditions of his supervision, and he has demonstrated an unwillingness to adhere to conditions of supervision. As such, incarceration appropriately addresses the Defendant’s violation. The sentencing objectives of punishment, deterrence and rehabilitation will best be served by a sentence of eight (8) months’ imprisonment with no supervised release to follow. This finding is bolstered by the recommendation from the Defendant, Government, and U.S. Probation Office that this is an appropriate sentence.

Furthermore, according to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(h), when a term of supervised release is revoked and the Defendant is required to serve a term of imprisonment, the court may include a requirement that the Defendant be placed on a term of supervised release after imprisonment. The length of such a term of supervised release shall not exceed the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the original term of supervised release, less any term of imprisonment that was imposed upon revocation of supervised release. Under U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(g)(2), where supervised release is revoked and the term of imprisonment imposed is less than the maximum term of imprisonment that can be imposed upon revocation, the court may include a requirement that the defendant be placed on a term of supervised release upon release from imprisonment. The undersigned recommends no supervised release to follow after the Defendant's imprisonment.

VII. Recommendations

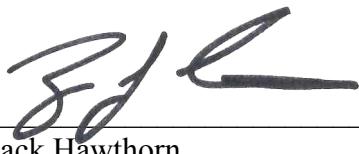
1. The court should find that the Defendant violated a mandatory condition of supervised release by failing refrain from unlawful use of a controlled substance;
2. The petition should be granted and the Defendant's supervised release should be revoked pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583; and
3. The Defendant should be sentenced to a total term of imprisonment of eight (8) months with no supervised release to be imposed after release.
4. The Defendant has requested to serve his term of imprisonment at the Beaumont Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) in Beaumont, Texas. If possible, his request should be granted.

VIII. Objections

At the close of the revocation hearing, the Defendant, defense counsel, and counsel for the government each signed a standard form waiving their right to object to the proposed findings and recommendations contained in this report, consenting to revocation of supervised release as

recommended, and consenting to the imposition of the above sentence recommended in this report. The Defendant waived his right to be present and speak before the district judge imposes the recommended sentence. Therefore, the court may act on the report and recommendation immediately.

SIGNED this 17th day of January, 2013.



Zack Hawthorn
United States Magistrate Judge